



# The Messenger

Wallingford Methodist Church



March 2020 Issue 381



## From the Manse.....

I am writing this letter as we wait for storm Dennis to come and batter our nation over the next day or so - at the moment, it is the proverbial calm before the storm.

While not expected to be as extreme as storm Ciara, (of last weekend) the Met Office has nonetheless, issued widespread warnings from yesterday to Sunday and is urging caution.

We may be wondering why we have started naming the storms that come our way, the Met office website states that "The naming of storms using a single authoritative system should aid the communication of approaching severe weather through media partners and other government agencies. In this way the public will be better placed to keep themselves, their property and businesses safe."

You can even suggest names for future storms if you wish by sending your idea via email to [nameourstorms@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:nameourstorms@metoffice.gov.uk)

In case you are interested, the next storm will be called Ellen.

You may recall how in the film "Paint your wagon", the prospectors holed up in their leaking tents due to the awful weather, sang about the wind being called Mariah.

The Hebrew word for wind, the breath of God is Ruach.

In John's Gospel, (Chapter three verse eight) Jesus reminds his listeners "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The thing about the wind, whether a gentle refreshing breeze on a hot summers day, or the destructive force of a powerful storm, is that you can't actually see it. Wind in itself is invisible.

What you can see of course is the effect and the impact the wind has on everything in its path.

In 1962, the answer may well have been "blowin' in the wind", yet the answer to who and whose we are in this day and age is seen by our affects on others.

Love and God Bless

Keith  
*Superintendent Minister*

## What is a Pastoral Visitor?

Methodists are rightly proud of the way in which over the centuries their church has evolved into a caring and welcoming church echoing God's love to the world. John Wesley believed in the value of small groups of Christians looking after each other. He called them Societies and these were sub-divided into Classes, which met regularly. Gradually things have changed and now the membership of each Methodist Church is divided into Pastoral Groups, with each group having a Pastoral Visitor.

Here at Wallingford we have a dedicated team of 13 Pastoral Visitors whose role is to care for the members of his or her group, especially if they are in need of prayer or practical help. When members are unable to come to Church regularly because of old age or illness the Pastoral Visitor will visit and keep the contact with Church. In this way we hope that everyone is covered. Should a problem arise it is the Pastoral Visitor who can alert the necessary person, be it the Minister or anyone else in the Church Fellowship.

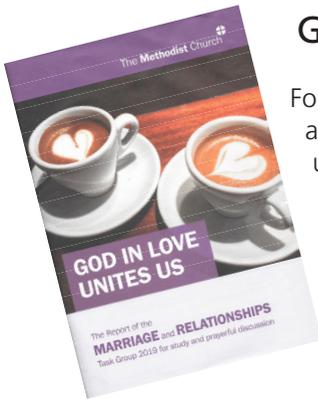
Each year every member receives a membership ticket and these are distributed to each individual by their Pastoral Visitor.

We need to care for one another in our Church family and this is one way of doing just that.

*Barbara Kershaw, Pastoral Secretary*

*A different form of the Lord's Prayer contibuted by Barbara Gosden,  
although we are not sure of the actual origin.*

Abba Amme, Beloved  
Your name be hallowed  
Your reign spread among us.  
Your will be done at all times, in all places  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us the bread we need for today.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Let us not fail at our times of testing.  
Spare us from trials too sharp to endure.  
Free us from the grip of all evil powers.  
For yours is the reign, the power and the glory,  
The victory of love, for now and eternity,  
World without end.          Amen



## God in love unites us

Following morning service on Sunday 29th March you are invited to stay for a talk about 'God in love unites us' and to bring and share lunch. The discussion will be chaired by our Superintendent Minister Rev Keith Underhill 12noon until 1.15pm. If you have not already read a copy please take one from those available in the atrium.

---

## Food Bank Analysis For January 2020



This has been a very unpredictable month as far as users of the Food Bank are concerned. On one session no-one came in and there were no telephone calls (although this did give us the opportunity to sort out the huge amount of stock that we were given over the Christmas period) and on the last session we gave out food to 50 people! This makes it very difficult to answer questions regarding how many we help in a week, however I can tell you that over the month we have given out parcels to 161 in total - 68 children and 93 adults.

We have received another couple of very large donations from companies who very kindly held back their Christmas donation until we were able to accommodate it, we were very grateful for that and our thanks go to all who so generously gave us food and money. Our stocks at present are quite high but we are always happy to receive tinned carrots and potatoes as well as sugar, uht milk and long life fruit juice. We also get asked for the larger size of nappies - 5 or 6 and toiletries are also very welcome.

On two evenings this past week we have been delighted to have the Cholsey Beavers come and visit us. They were anxious to hear about and see the Food Bank and so we were able to take small groups of 11-12 into the working area and show them how it works. They were all very receptive and whilst Eileen and I talked to a group downstairs, Neville talked to the group that were left upstairs until we changed them over. It worked very well.

We are now very settled in our new premises and are very grateful that we can give clients a warm and comfortable welcome when they call in. We look forward in anticipation as to what God has in store for us this year (hopefully not another move!!!)

*Jean Burt*

# Wallingford Street Pastors

Newsletter No 30 - December 2020



It has been hard month financially for many people. You probably get paid a bit earlier than usual in December, then there is all the extra expenditure of Christmas, not to mention some partying, and January seems such an incredibly long wait for pay day. It is not surprising that few people were out enjoying a drink or two on Friday nights. There were a few diehards but no incidents for us to deal with and we had a few important conversations with folk.

With less activity on patrols it was a good month to have our AGM, to reflect on the past year and think about the future.

Two of our team had to give up patrols for health reasons, one of which was me. One person finished training and is now patrolling regularly, another has started training and should come on line soon.

Throughout the year we gave practical help to 20 people, picked up 142 bottles and glasses as well as sweeping up 18 broken ones. We gave out several bottles of water, 6 pairs of flip flops and countless lollipops (at least 1000). We also had an estimated 116 serious conversations with people who were struggling with problems of various kinds and prayed with those that wanted it.

The police are always telling us that they could not manage without us now. Pub and restaurant proprietors think we help a lot and often express their appreciation. Wallingford has remained fairly calm on Friday nights. We would like to have patrols on Saturdays as well but don't have enough volunteers at the moment.

Looking to the future I am pleased to report that with some extra donations given we should be able to meet the increased cost of the Ascension Trust Licence this year, which is good news to our incoming new treasurer, Martin Holden. John Chalkley felt it was time to retire after doing the job for most of the time we have existed, and this is a good opportunity to say thankyou more publicly.

We keep getting told that there should be a scheme operating in Didcot and at last this seems to be beginning to take shape. One of our team joined us with the express purpose of training up and gaining experience in Wallingford with a view to starting something in Didcot. He and I discussed a strategy together and considered what support could be given from Wallingford. The initial reaction from a number of leaders at Didcot's Churches Together Meeting was positive. There is much to do, including setting up a local charity linked to Ascension Trust but we are generally encouraged to press on.

We are also encouraged by the opportunity we have had for one of SPs to speak to the churches in Henley. Watch this space!

*Neville*

## ShelterBox

I hope you have all noticed the new addition in the atrium - a miniature disaster scene with some of the necessities for shelter, survival and rebuilding. The montage has been created by our youngsters from junior church: Edward, Catherine and Rosalyn to encourage all visitors to the church to donate small change to our new international charity ShelterBox.

I remember in the early days of ShelterBox, in the 1980s, being asked if we had any spare spades, saws, sleeping bags, camping utensils or tents which could be boxed up by a Rotary club in Cornwall to be sent to disaster areas following floods, hurricanes or earthquakes.

Today ShelterBox is a separate charity which provides purpose-made equipment, contained in a distinctive green box, to hundreds of thousands of families each year made homeless as a result of natural disasters or because they have had to flee war zones such as Syria.

In recent years, when floods and landslides have hit Peru and Bangladesh, homes have been destroyed by an earthquake in Indonesia or Rohingya families have been forced out of Myanmar, ShelterBox have sent in their partners on the ground, Rotarians or other aid agencies, to assess the needs. Rotary and ShelterBox volunteers help to get the boxes and kits to the disaster areas by road, river or by carrying them across country.

Sometimes the need is for Shelter Kits, costing £65, which contain a heavy duty tarpaulin and rope for repairing a roof, plus tools and nails for future construction, and a hoe for replanting crops.

The ShelterBoxes contain a relief tent to accommodate a family of five - designed to withstand torrential rain and hurricane winds - cooking and eating utensils, a 10l water carrier and a water filter, sleeping mats and blankets, a solar powered light, a tarpaulin and rope. The green boxes can be used for a variety of purposes - from storing cooking equipment or holding water to providing a cot for a baby.

The contents of the boxes are customised depending on whether mosquito nets are essential, or thermal quilted blankets and a winterised tent lining are necessary where the weather is colder.

About one third of the average £590 price of a full ShelterBox goes on transport and distribution.

ShelterBox states: "We go to the ends of the earth to deliver the essentials people need to begin rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of disaster. We don't just give people what they need to survive, we give them the tools to self-recover - to keep families and communities together."

To see videos of where ShelterBoxes is currently helping in the world, go to <https://www.shelterbox.org/operations-update>.

## Book Sale and Pancake Day 2020

Our thanks go to all who worked so hard to make this annual event such a success again. Another record breaking 198 pancakes were served to very happy eaters!

We raised £480 which will be split between our two charities 'ShelterBox' and Young Carers.



## Jumble Sale - March 21st at 2pm

Once again it's time to search your cupboards, shelves or loft for any jumble.

Our next sale will be on Saturday March 21st, at 2 pm.

Any donations of bric-a-brac, clothing, household goods, toys, games, shoes or bags will be gratefully received. Items can be left under the atrium stairs or brought on the 21st between 10 am and noon.

Help would be appreciated setting up, manning the stalls, serving refreshments, clearing away and taking left over items to local charity shops.

If you are able to help at this event, which fundraisers for the church, please sign up on the sheet in the atrium.

# What's It Worth?

## with Jonty Hearnden

### Saturday 25th April 7-10pm



Television presenter and antiques expert Jonty Hearnden will be coming to our church to host a fun, charity evening in April.

Called 'What's It Worth', it will be a team event where we will collectively get the chance to value some antiques, curios, items of local history or memorabilia - selected by Jonty from the objects of interest brought in by the participants.

Jonty, an antiques expert on the highly successful 'Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is', will secretly value the selected objects. The aim of the evening is for teams to make a valuation of each item's worth, and when totalled up, the group with the nearest amount to Jonty's will each win a (small) prize.

Jonty, from Shillingford, who began his tv career as an expert on The Antiques Roadshow and went on to present Cash in the Attic and Celebrity Cash in the Attic, asks that participants limit themselves to bringing one item of interest. It doesn't have to be particularly valuable, but it would be good if there is an interesting story behind it. You might have a small piece of furniture which is a family heirloom, an old map, a photo or a picture. Maybe you have a memento of an event, such as the Queen's visit to Wallingford in 1955; a signed sporting programme; or medals from the First or Second World War.

Jonty will look at all the items and talk to the owners about them while we tuck into a supper of chilli and bread, or vegetable lasagne and bread, followed by a selection of homemade cakes. He will choose half a dozen objects, and may add a couple of his own, for the teams to value one at a time.

As the antiques and curios will be passed around the tables, Jonty has asked for no delicate items such as glass, china or jewellery. He has kindly offered to look at items which weren't discussed as part of What's It Worth, at the end of the evening.

Tickets for the event on Saturday April 25th, from 7-10pm, cost £10. Proceeds from the evening will be split between the church's two charities: Shelterbox and Be Free Young Carers.

It would be great if people can invite others to make a team (of 4-8 people) but we can also create teams from individuals and couples who would like to participate. Please sign up on the sheet in the atrium.

## PA Operatives

	10.30am	6.30pm
March 1st	Ian Scrivener	Norman Atkinson
March 8th	Iain Revell	Iain Revell
March 15th	Wendy Warrick	At Wantage Uc 3pm
March 22nd	Graham Ifill	Graham Ifill
March 29th	Sarah Ifill	Sarah Ifill

---

## Organists

	10.30am	6.30p
March 1st	Gill Hall	Gill Hall
March 8th	Libby Bolton	Libby Bolton
March 15th	Gill Hall	At Wantage Uc 3pm
March 22nd	Gill Hall	Gill Hall
March 29th	Gill Hall	Gill Hall

---

## Coffee Rota (Sunday Morning)

March 1st	Pauline A/Shirley
March 8th	Sally/Belinda
March 15th	Ruth /Norman
March 22nd	Sarah/Nicky
March 29th	Sue/Gwyneth

---

## Lectionary Readings

March 1st	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19	Psalm 32 Matthew 4:1-11
March 8th	Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	Psalm 121 John 3:1-17
March 15th	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11	Psalm 95 John 4:5-42
March 22nd	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Ephesians 5:8-14	Psalm 23 John 9:1-41
March 29th	Ezekial 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11	Psalm 130 John 11:1-46

## Sunday Worship

	10.30am	6.30pm
March 1st	Barbara Sexton	Ian Sturt
March 8th	Marlene Chalkley	Stephen Atkinson
March 15th	Libby Bolton	<b>3pm</b> At Wantage Uc
March 22nd	Frederick Obeng	Rev K & Deacon M Blake S
March 29th	Eileen Appleyard S	Daphne Savage
<i>A - All Age Worship</i>	<i>L - Local Arrangement</i>	<i>P - Parade</i>
<i>S- Communion Service</i>	<i>C Church Anniversary</i>	<i>U - United Service</i>

---

## Church Stewards

March 1st	Graham Ifill
March 8th	Daphne Savage
March 15th	Carol Hill
March 22nd	Belinda Kaur
March 29th	Debbie Adams

---

## Door Stewards

	10.30am	6.30pm
March 1st	E Chamberlain	W Moorin
March 8th	P Smail/G Hall	B Calcutt
March 15th	M & J Chalkley	3pm At Wantage Uc
March 22nd	A & A Lowe	J Chalkley
March 29th	I & S Scrivener	B Kaur

### The Messenger April Issue

Items for the next issue would be appreciated by  
Monday March 24th please. you can send them to  
[paulineainley@btinternet.com](mailto:paulineainley@btinternet.com)

